

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 721

By Finney L

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Senator Roy Herron for his honorable and astute service to the people of Tennessee as a member of the General Assembly.

WHEREAS, it is most appropriate that the members of this body should honor those fellow legislators who have performed their duties with the utmost probity, and whose efforts during their time in office have been dedicated to providing thoughtful and exemplary service to their districts and to this great State; and

WHEREAS, Senator Roy Herron is one such distinguished public servant who has served both his constituency and this legislative body with honor and distinction; and

WHEREAS, Senator Herron has been a highly influential figure in the political, social, and civic lives of the 24th Senatorial District, and he has served his constituents in numerous capacities, always working diligently at his elected duties and expending the necessary effort to understand the opposing sides of complex issues; and

WHEREAS, as a Senate member of the 100th through 107th General Assemblies, Roy Herron has been prominent as a dedicated and well-informed legislator who always votes his conscience; and

WHEREAS, a sixth-generation Tennessean, Senator Roy Herron was taught the value of hard work and service to others by his father, a World War II veteran and judge, and his mother, a devoted homemaker; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from Dresden High School, he earned his Bachelor of Science degree with Highest Honors from the University of Tennessee, studied the New Testament and Ethics as a Rotary Scholar at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland, and

obtained his Master of Divinity and Doctor of Jurisprudence degrees from Vanderbilt University; and

WHEREAS, as an active and dynamic participant in the legislative process, Senator Herron currently renders sterling service as a member of the Senate General Welfare, Health and Human Resources Committee and the Senate Environment, Conservation, and Tourism Committee; and

WHEREAS, throughout his storied career, Roy Herron has worked assiduously for working families, consumers, and honest businesses and ushered in a host of positive changes through his sponsorship of the Crime Victims Bill of Rights, Self-Defense Act, Student Religious Liberty Act, Bible in School Act, Lobbying Ethics Act, Whistleblower Law, and Healthy Students Act; and

WHEREAS, Senator Herron was the driving force behind countless child protection, health care, and anti-crime reforms; spearheaded numerous fair business protection initiatives; and stood at the forefront of the struggle to end predatory lending practices; and

WHEREAS, he also helped establish the Ned R. McWherter Center for Rural Development to educate future leaders and offer scholarships for talented Tennesseans; and

WHEREAS, for the past two decades, Senator Herron has cultivated a reputation as a good listener, forceful advocate, and hard worker; he has conducted well over 1,000 listening meetings and missed only one legislative session, the day his youngest son was being born; and

WHEREAS, a remarkable individual who truly appreciates the responsibilities, as well as the privileges, of leadership and citizenship, Roy Herron has graciously donated his time, energy, and resources to many community and civic organizations, including the UT and Vanderbilt Alumni Associations, Habitat for Humanity, Rotary International, March of Dimes, Boy Scouts of America, Tennessee Bar Association and Foundation, Ducks Unlimited, Brian Brown Bohunker Triathlon and Marathon Club, Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee, Community Foundation of Greater Memphis, Ned McWherter Center for Rural Development, and several chambers of commerce; and

WHEREAS, a former minister, Roy Herron is a devout member of the First United Methodist Church of Dresden, where he faithfully teaches Sunday School; and

WHEREAS, a talented, astute, and productive professional, Senator Herron also serves with acumen and alacrity an attorney and small businessman, practicing law in Dresden; and

WHEREAS, Roy Herron's determination and perseverance pervade every aspect of his life; this Eagle Scout has completed over thirty marathons and three Ironman Triathlons; and

WHEREAS, he is also a celebrated author, having penned *Things Held Dear: Soul Stories for My Sounds*, *Tennessee Political Humor: Some of These Jokes You Voted For*, and *God and Politics: How Can a Christian Be in Politics?*; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to honors and accolades, Senator Herron was named a Council of State Governments Toll Fellow and a Japan Society Public Policy Fellow; and

WHEREAS, prior to his exemplary tenure in the Senate, Senator Roy Herron was an outstanding member of the House of Representatives, astutely serving his constituents during the 95th through 99th General Assemblies; and

WHEREAS, throughout his long and distinguished career as a public servant, Senator Herron has worked tirelessly on behalf of his constituents, bringing to his office an honorable bearing and the traditional values of hard work and common sense; and

WHEREAS, his many civic and professional accomplishments aside, Roy Herron is most appreciative of the love and companionship he shares with his wife, Nancy, and his sons, John, Rick, and Ben; and

WHEREAS, Senator Roy Herron is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State," and he should be specially recognized for his distinguished tenure in this body; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor Senator Roy Herron for his meritorious service to Tennessee as a member of the General Assembly, commend him for his countless contributions and many good works in service of the citizens of the 24th Senatorial District, and extend to him our best wishes for much success and happiness in all his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.